/Turkic Peoples of Sinkiang/

286 531 199 Khotan is the most famous of the cities in Sinkiang in the production of the famous oriental rugs, in needlework and also in metal works (Kashgar and Yarkand are also important centers of rug weaving). The design of many of the rugs is a most interesting mixture of Persian and Chinese styles. The whole treatment is unmistakeably Persian, though many small details are Chinese. The same blending of the Far with the Near East is found in the beautiful embroidery of Khotan. The stitch chiefly used in the embroidery is the Turkish chain stitch, which is not found in the embroidery in China, but the wave and cloud patterns, the butterflies and some of the flowers are definitely of Chinese design. Khotan is also famous for its craftsmanship in brass and copper household utensils decorated with elaborate floral designs in pierced metal work.

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286 294 531 [199] Kuch in the north has been famous for generations for the gold and silver embroidery on velvet. Women's indoor caps are the chief article of manufacture. The design as a whole is Persian, but the use of circular medallions in embroidery on robes is a Chinese device.

53 517 179 178 There has been a tremendous decline in all these works of art and articrafts in the present century, mainly because of the availability of factory-manufactured cheap objects of daily use, from both Russia and China proper. Thus, the carpets of Khotan and the surrounding country are slowly disappearing, and their quality has gone down. The expensive handmade items are replaced by the cheap materials provided by modern industry. The class of artists and artisans has declined, since it is impossible for them to compete with new imported products.

517 532 177 668 The artistic expressions inspired by the new Communist regime are totally different from the old indigenous ones. They center around paintings and statues glorifying the present-day leaders, and describing episodes from the life of the newly "liberated" working class. Nothing could be more foreign to the spirit and traditions of the Eastern Turkis.

E. Music and Dance

533 527 The taste for music and dance is highly developed in Sinkiang, and it constitutes the main means of entertainment for important social occasions. There are professional musicians (maghmatchi) organized in bands of three or four individuals, available for hire. At many public feasts, a band is hired for entertainment. The musicians chant as they play their instruments. The tunes are simple, composed primarily for accompaniment to the dance, or, more often, improvised. To the Western-trained ear, both tune and rhythm are monotonous.

534 [199] Most of the musical instruments used in these bands are of Persian origin. Grenard lists the following instruments:

Doutar—a long guitar with two strings.